United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400
Date: November 14, 2003

Mr. Kevin Thorpe
USDA Agricultural Research Service
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-East
B-402, BARC-East
Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Kevin:

On September 16, 17 and 30, 2003, USDA Forest Service personnel conducted a gypsy moth egg mass survey at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the efficacy of the suppression project conducted this past Spring and to assess the potential for defoliation and the need for treatment in 2004.

The location of the survey plots are shown in Figure 1. In brief, no new egg masses were detected at any of the 51 plots. No gypsy moth caused defoliation was detected anywhere at BARC during the aerial detection survey conducted on June 16 (see report dated July 16).

It was not expected that a suppression project using the biological insecticide Gypchek would provide 100 percent foliage protection from gypsy moth defoliation and a 100 percent gypsy moth population reduction. Based on results of previous suppression projects using Gypchek, foliage protection was expected on approximately 75 percent of the treatment area along with a gypsy moth population reduction in the 50-75 percent range. It is very likely that the results of this year's suppression project was aided by a natural decline of the gypsy moth in the area.

Since no noticeable defoliation is expected, treatment is not recommended in 2004 at BARC.

Please call me at (304) 285-1555 if you have any questions regarding the egg mass survey or this letter.

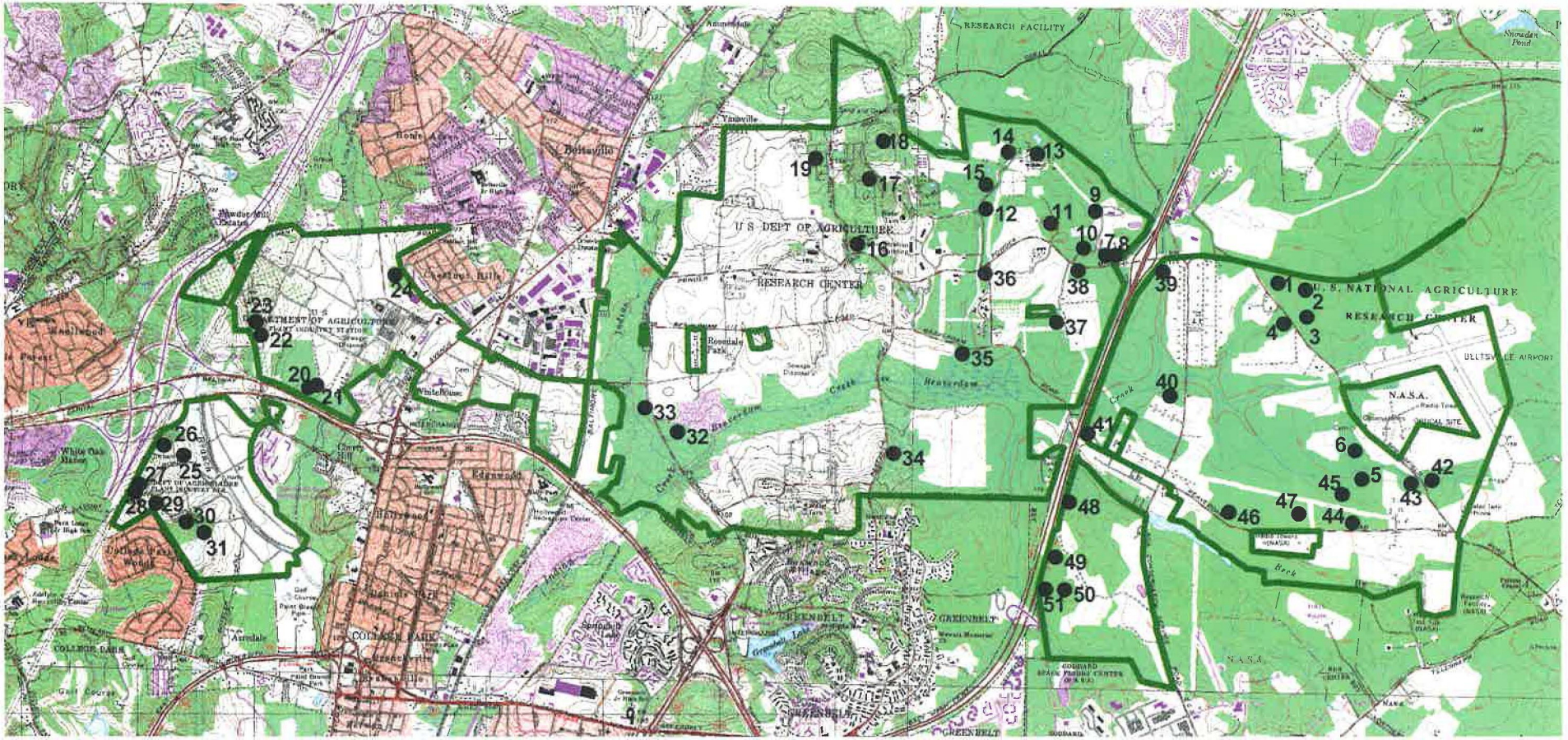
Sincerely,

Rodney L. Whiteman

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN
Forester
Forest Health Protection

Cc: Ralph Webb, BARC
Robert Tichenor, MDA
Sally Hughes, MDA
Noel Schneeberger, AO

Figure 1.-- Gypsy moth egg mass survey plot locations at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, September 2003.



USDA Forest Service, FHP, S&PF, Morgantown, WV

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